

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, United States Army Colonel William Austine bequeathed the sum of \$50,000 to establish a hospital for the treatment of strangers or local residents with extraordinary circumstances. In 1904, five local residents complied with Colonel Austine's wishes and incorporated the Austine Institution; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, a 200-acre farm was purchased and the Austine School opened with 16 students; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Graham Bell delivered Austine School's first commencement address; and

WHEREAS, the Austine School, was an independent, coeducational day and residential school for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children age four to 22 from New England and New York; and

WHEREAS, the Austine School provided a challenging academic program that was sensitive to the individual needs of each student, and prepared students for entry to college and career by making learning relevant to everyday life; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal for every Austine student was to experience a happy, healthy and successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, the Austine School for the Deaf established the Austine Alumni Association in 1936, and in 1938, had its first president, Alton Day, and officers; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Austine Alumni Association is to promote, protect and preserve the highest interest and general welfare of Austine School graduates and former attending students of the Austine School; and

WHEREAS, the Austine School for the Deaf/Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing closed its doors in 2014 due to declining enrollment and financial issues, the Austine Alumni Association continues to serve out its promise to alumni; and

WHEREAS, the Austine Alumni Association continues its mission of support to deaf Vermonters, hard of hearing and blind deaf with interpreting services, a scholarship for a high school senior deaf student, the Lion's Camp for deaf and hard of hearing students and the Austine Museum which contains artifacts, written material and photos which are an important part of Brattleboro, Vermont's history;

WHEREAS, the Austine Alumni Association continues to keep alive the school spirit and long friendships forged at the Austine School for the Deaf;

WHEREAS, the Austine Alumni Association will celebrate its 80th Anniversary

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do proclaim June 11, 2016 as

AUSTINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 6th day of June, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor